

3c | Dinner date

SPEAKING

1 Think of the last time you had a meal at someone else's home and prepare answers to the questions.

- Whose home was it?
- How long ago was it?
- Was it a special occasion?
- Who was at the meal?
- What did you eat?
- What was the food like?
- What did you talk about during the meal?

2 Work in pairs. Describe the meal to your partner.



LISTENING

1 Work in pairs. Look at the pictures A–C and describe what is happening in each. What do you think the people are saying to each other?

2 1.24–1.26 Listen to the three conversations. What are the mistakes in the pictures?

3 1.24–1.26 Listen again and say if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Derek arrived early.
- 2 Nigel decorated the house.
- 3 Derek has a glass of white wine.
- 4 Derek does a lot of cooking at home.
- 5 Derek tells Nigel about the office.
- 6 Derek liked the *calamari*.
- 7 It's a warm evening.
- 8 Camilla really enjoyed the evening.

4 Look at tapescripts 1.24–1.26 on pages 138–139 to check your answers.

5 Imagine that you have invited a new friend for dinner in your home. What will you cook for them? What other preparations will you make?

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE: requests

PRONUNCIATION: intonation (requests)


1 Look at tapescripts 1.24–1.26 on pages 138–139 again and underline examples of the phrases 1–8.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Can you ... | 5 Do you think I could ... |
| 2 Could I ... | 6 Do you think you could ... |
| 3 Could you ... | 7 Is it all right / OK if I ... |
| 4 Do you mind if I ... | 8 Would you mind + <i>-ing</i> ... |

2 Complete the table with the phrases in exercise 1.

asking someone to do something	asking for permission to do something
Could you possibly ...	Can I ...
Do you mind + <i>-ing</i> ...	Could I possibly ...
_____	I wonder if I could ...
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____


Which of the phrases are the most polite?

3  **1.27** Listen to these short exchanges. What is wrong with the responses?


- 1 A: Do you think I could have a glass of water?
B: Yes.
- 2 A: Do you mind if I don't see you out to your car?
B: No.
- 3 A: Can you get me another glass of wine?
B: Yes.
- 4 A: Would you mind sharing the joke with me?
B: No.

4 Match the alternative responses a–d to the questions in exercise 3.

- a No, not at all. Of course not. I'll start again. So, a frog walks into a bar ...
- b Yes, of course, help yourself. The glasses are over there above the sink.
- c Yes, sure. What were you drinking? White or red?
- d No, no, not at all. I'll see myself out.

 **1.28** Listen to the recording to check your answers.

5 You can make requests more polite in two ways:
(a) say *please* (b) use friendly intonation.

 **1.29** Listen and repeat the example.

Do you think I could have another glass of wine, please?


6 Work in pairs. Look at the requests in exercise 3 and the responses in exercise 4. Practise the dialogues, concentrating on making your intonation as polite as possible.

VOCABULARY: conversation fillers

1 Match the groups of conversation fillers A–C to their meanings 1–3.

A	B	C
Mm. Uh-huh. Yes.	Ah! Oh! Really!	I see. Right.

- 1 I understand.
- 2 I'm surprised.
- 3 I agree.

2  **1.30** Listen to the conversation between Derek and Avril. Put the conversation fillers in exercise 1 in the order they are used.

3 Work in pairs, A and B.

- A: Read this short text to your partner.
B: Listen and respond with conversation fillers.

Do you remember that I was having dinner with the boss last night? Unfortunately, I arrived a bit early and they weren't ready for me. I thought it would be a good idea to bring a present, so I bought some flowers. I don't think she liked them very much. I must admit one or two of them were a bit dead. Anyway, she was busy so I chatted with her husband and he was very nice. Very friendly, actually. I think you'd like him.

When you have finished, exchange roles.

Roleplay

4 Work in pairs, A and B. You are going to act out a dinner party conversation.

- A: A friend has invited you for dinner in his/her home.
Turn to page 126 for more information.
B: You have invited a friend for dinner in your home.
Turn to page 131 for more information.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Work in pairs. Read the information and discuss these questions.

Britain has a bad reputation for food, but many people now claim that the reputation is undeserved. There are over 30,000 restaurants in the country and they are improving all the time. In many cities, you can choose from Indian, Chinese, Italian, French, Mexican, Turkish, Greek and Spanish, but finding good traditional British food can be difficult. Cooking programmes on TV are very popular and TV chefs like Jamie Oliver are household names. Recipe books are often at the top of the best-seller list. Health food shops are everywhere and more and more people are eating organic food.



- Does your country have a good reputation for food? Is the reputation deserved?
- How often do you go to a restaurant or have a meal with friends?
- What are the most popular food books and TV programmes in your country?